



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 14, 2005**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**MARSHALL FELON SENTENCED, KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY  
TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Marshall, Mo., man was sentenced and a Kansas City man pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of firearms.

\* **Joe L. Welch**, 29, of Marshall, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 6, 2004, **Welch** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Welch** admitted he was in possession of a Montgomery Wards 20-gauge shotgun on Jan. 1, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Welch** has two 2001 criminal felony convictions for driving with a revoked or suspended license and assault.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Saline County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Sean E. Gaseway**, 33, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Gaseway** admitted he was in possession of a Bryco Arms 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Sept. 9, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Gaseway** has a previous criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)